

---

**DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD 2014/2015**

---

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. This briefing is to make Adults and Housing Scrutiny aware of the achievements of the Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board for 2014/2015 and its future plans in light of the Care Act 2014.

**Summary**

**The current context for Safeguarding**

2. The Care Act 2014 places Safeguarding Adults Board's upon a statutory footing and sets out clear statutory requirements for the Board and its partners. There are 3 core duties placed upon Safeguarding Adult Boards:-
  - a) Publication of a strategic plan outlining how the SAB will meet its main objective and how this will be achieved;
  - b) Publish an annual report highlighting what it has done during that financial year to achieve its objective and implement its plan.
  - c) Undertake Safeguarding Adult Reviews in accordance with Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 publicise the findings of any such reviews within its annual report and include any actions it has not completed during that period and the reasons.
3. Making Safeguarding Personal outlines six key principles for effective safeguarding practice:-
  - (a) Empowerment - people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent.
  - (b) Prevention - it is better to take action before harm occurs.
  - (c) Proportionality - the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
  - (d) Protection - support and representation for those in greatest need.
  - (e) Partnership - local solutions through services working with their communities- communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

- (f) Accountability – openness and transparency in safeguarding practice.
4. Safeguarding adults should be encompassed by the above principles across all multi-agency practice.
  5. Under the Care Act 2014 the new safeguarding duties applied to Local Authorities also apply to partners for example, the NHS and Police. The Board has a broad membership which is continually reviewed; bringing together a range of skills and experience of sufficient seniority to ensure the Board is able to discharge its plans. The Board is also chaired independently.
  6. During the 2014/2015 reporting period the Board had 4 main working groups, Policy & Implementation, Quality & Performance, Adult Learning & Improvement Group and a Training & Communication group, a jointly formed group across both the Adults and Children Boards. An additional time limited group for Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards was agreed to explore any potential work areas in light of the Supreme Court Ruling in relation to Cheshire West.
  7. Following a Board Development Session and Rapid Improvement Event held in 2014, the Board agreed an interim 6 month business plan to embed both the core business and governance of the Board as well as the statutory requirements as set out within the Care Act 2014.
  8. The Board highlighted through its Development Sessions in April 2014 and February 2015 its progress in relation to its strategic plan and its achievements. It also identified areas to shape its future practice and measure its performance. This included continuing to ensure it has clear focus and drive, challenges appropriately and that it makes a difference.

### **Achievements 2014/2015**

#### 9. Priority 1 – Governance Arrangements

Revision of the Terms of Reference for the Board and all of its working groups was achieved and also a member toolkit was introduced. Bi-monthly reporting requirements from the working groups were also embedded. Self-assessment activities were undertaken across all partner agencies and performance clinics undertaken.

#### 10. Priority 2 – Safeguarding Adult Reviews

The Care Act 2014 introduced changes with regards to Safeguarding Adult Reviews (formerly Serious Case Reviews). The Board has revised its local Safeguarding Adult Review protocol and re-branded its working group to form an Adult Learning & Improvement Group. This group has identified a range of methodologies to utilise should any Safeguarding Adult Reviews be instigated, gathering information on the skills and experience available from partners to build local capacity for such processes.

#### 11. Priority 3 - Quality Assurance

The Quality & Performance working group have developed a range of tools to assist in the monitoring of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for the locality. In February 2015 it introduced audit activities on a multi-agency basis. Compliance monitoring has been introduced to monitor partner's commitment to the Board and its working groups with 6 monthly reports to Board, inclusive of monitoring attendance levels of all key partners.

#### 12. Priority 4 – Procedures

A stocktake was undertaken in relation to the current multi-agency procedures with a clear forward plan to ensure they were Care Act 2014 compliant and reflective of the six safeguarding principles. Revisions were undertaken for the locally agreed multi-agency information sharing protocol and Safer Recruitment Guidance for all agencies was developed.

#### 13. Priority 5 – Training & Communication

Raising awareness is a key function of the Board which should be supported by all agencies. A monthly e-bulletin has been introduced which is disseminated across all partners and wider stakeholders. In 2014/2015 a Training Needs Analysis exercise was undertaken to identify training needs and a new evaluation process was introduced to measure the impact of training. A total of 2,235 professionals/staff and/or volunteers have accessed the range of multi-agency training available.

#### 14. Time limited groups

The Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards working group had a clear remit to raise the profile of MCA and DoLS. The group identified clear training plans and developed practitioner guidance.

### **Challenges**

#### 15. The Board have identified a number of challenges in moving forward:-

- a) Board members continue to seek assurance that safeguarding arrangements are effective;
- b) Gather evidence that illustrates safeguarding of adults is outcome focussed across all agencies;
- c) Strengthening communication with the community of Darlington;
- d) Build upon processes in place to assess if agencies are making a difference.

### **Future Priorities 2015 – 2018**

#### 16. Following a review of its achievements for 2014/2015 the Board have identified its priorities in moving forward for the next 3 years:-

- a) Ensuring Making Safeguarding Personal is a multi-agency approach;
- b) A commitment to share and improve resources and review budgetary arrangements;
- c) To continue to monitor compliance with the Care Act 2014;
- d) To improve communication and engagement with the wider Community;
- e) Explore and identify mechanisms to support, prevent and protect adults at risk of Sexual Exploitation.

### **Recommendation**

17. It is recommended that It is recommended that Scrutiny note the contents of this briefing for the Safeguarding Adults Board, and its future plans.

**Murray Rose, Director of Commissioning**

### **Background Papers**

None

Heidi Gibson: Extension 6451